

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 03551 232223Z

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02
NSC-05 L-03 H-02 PA-02 USIA-15 OIC-02 HA-05 /121 W
-----007046 232243Z /14-65

P 232111Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5091

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 03551

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ICFTU, ELAB, TS

SUBJ: ICFTU DELEGATION TO TUNISIA

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 3184; (B) TUNIS 1357

1. THE SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE FEB. 22 ON THE RECENT VISIT OF AN ICFTU DELEGATION TO TUNIS. EXCEPT FOR A FINAL PARAGRAPH LISTING DELEGATION MEMBERS (REF A) , THE RELEASE IS QUOTED IN FULL BELOW:

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 03551 232223Z

BEGIN TEXT:

THE TOP LEVEL TRADE UNION DELEGATION WHICH VISITED TUNIS FROM FEBRUARY 19 TO 21 HAS OBTAINED SOME SATISFACTION FROM THE FACT THAT IT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET HABIB ACHOUR, THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE TUNISIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION UGTT, WHO HAS BEEN IN PRISON SINCE JANUARY 28

TOGETHER WITH NUMEROUS OTHER TRADE UNIONISTS, INCLUDING TEN OTHER MEMBERS OF THE UGTT EXECUTIVE. THE DELEGATION WAS, HOWEVER, SHOCKED TO FIND THAT NO CHARGES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT SO FAR AGAINST THOSE DETAINED.

THE GENERAL STRIKE OF JANUARY 26, WHICH WAS A MANIFESTATION OF THE GROWING DISCONTENT OF THE TUNISIAN WORKERS WITH THE DETERIORATING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION, HAPPENED AT A TIME OF HIGH POLITICAL TENSION AND ALL KINDS OF POLITICAL FACTIONS HAVE TRIED TO EXPLOIT IT FOR THEIR OWN ENDS.

BUT IN ANY CASE, THE DELEGATION IS OF THE OPINION THAT DEMOCRACY CANNOT BE DEFENDED BY UNDEMOCRATIC MEANS. THAT IS WHY IT CONDEMNS, ONCE AGAIN, THE ARRESTS OF TRADE UNIONISTS AND THE BLOODY SUPPRESSION ON THE DAY OF THE STRIKE ITSELF.

THE ICFTU WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW EVENTS IN TUNISIA WITH THE GREATEST ATTENTION, AND WILL TAKE ALL EFFECTIVE ACTION TO OBTAIN THE LIBERATION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS. IT WILL KEEP ITS MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS INFORMED OF THE TUNISIAN SITUATION AND WILL ASK THEM TO INTERVENE WITH THEIR GOVERNMENTS SO THAT PRESSURE IS EXERTED ON TUNISIA IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THESE GOALS. END TEXT.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 03551 232223Z

2. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH ABOVE STATEMENT WAS RELEASED, ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY OTTO KERSTEN WAS ASKED WHETHER THE ICFTU WAS GOING TO ACCEPT AN INVITATION TO ATTEND THE FEB. 25-26 UGTT EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS, AND HE REPLIED THAT THE ICFTU WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE PRESENT. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO AN ICFTU SOURCE, A REUTERS DISPATCH IN FRENCH FEB. 22 SOMEHOW LEFT OUT THE NEGATIVE. THE ICFTU HAS ASKED REUTERS TO SEND OUT A CORRECTION. HINTON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, VISITS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE03551
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780084-0984
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780224/aaaaatyl.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 806c9ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SIL
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 3184, 78 TUNIS 1357
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3510779
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICFTU DELEGATION TO TUNISIA
TAGS: ELAB, TS, ICFTU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/806c9ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014